

HAVE YOU RENEWED?

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VOL. XIX.—NO. 12.

THE GIRL IN THE COFFIN; The Romance of the Twelve Sisters.

—OR—
"WIDOWS INELICIBLE."

By RICHARD RUSSELL.

CHAPTER I.
Cyril Claridge had lived long enough in the world to grow weary of his life, and yet he was only in his 28th year. He came from the door of a London clubhouse one rainy, dull November day, and he was a ruined man. In the short space of four years he had gambled away his patrimony, and as he now lolled on the pavement he glanced up at the windows of the houses he had just quitted with his heart sickening within him. He had gone through every phase of what men term "life," and had at last come to the end of his tether.

He had one relative—a clergyman, his mother's brother—in a village nestling down in a hollow on the outskirts of Salisbury Plain. There was a charm even in the name of the village—Clinkton St. Michael's—and it was a lovely spot; the sweetest, freshest, brightest in all England. He would make an appeal to Rev. Sylvester Thornton. If he refused, he would be the final alternative, namely, to blow out his brains at Clinkton St. Michael's. He would be sure of decent obsequies, and then, if there is life beyond this life, he would rest contentedly in the grave.

Two men, strangers to each other, were bent on the same journey, London to Salisbury, by the Southwestern railway, via Basingstoke and Andover.

At that time the line, after branching off two miles beyond Basingstoke, was what is technically called "single line," that is, it consisted of one set of rails for both up and down trains, consequently the trains had to pass each other at certain stations, and were induced to pass in the company's instructions to their servants.

The train by which these two men travelled was the 5.10 p.m. from London. One man was Cyril Claridge, the other was a stranger some 50 years of age, with a few class passengers; Claridge with a single journey ticket, the stranger with a double journey ticket.

It was in November, and the day in London had been humid and the atmosphere heavy.

A thick fog had fallen over the country. This was particularly noticeable at Basingstoke, and as the train proceeded, the fog became more dense.

The fellow-travellers had not spoken to each other; but had sat in silence in opposite corners of the carriage, as far apart as possible, and in a moment of response.

Cyril Claridge was the first to speak. He had travelled 50 miles without a word having passed between them, and he began to find this a little oppressive.

"It is fearfully foggy," he remarked, turning his face towards the other man.

The man sat motionless, and made no comment.

Cyril coughed loudly, but that elicited no reply or attention.

Claridge arose from his seat and leaned over the man, peering into his face. The man's eyes were partly open. Claridge was desperate, at a moment when he put his hand on the man's forehead it felt cold.

Listened with his ear close to the man's face for his breathing; but the man respired as if he were asleep. He was sitting back in his seat, and his hand was on the man's forehead; it felt cold.

"My God!" he cried, "the man is dead!"

The man's life had passed away in silence; he seemed to be dead.

He found it hard to believe this. Again he placed his hand near the man's heart, so as to assure himself that life was extinct.

He thrust his hand into the man's pocket, and he felt a cold, hard, round object.

He unbuttoned the man's waistcoat, and again put his hand over the man's heart.

"Dead!" said Claridge, "beyond question."

He pulled the man's pocket, and he perceived a pocket in his lining. He knew for what purpose men had those pockets made; men like himself, betting men and gamblers, carry their bank notes in those pockets.

There was a roll of bank notes in the dead man's pocket, nearly as thick as Claridge could encircle with the thumb and forefinger of his right hand. There lay the man's starting fund, as it were, full in the face.

Money, argued Cyril, to a dead man is useless. The temptation to appropriate the notes was great; it came at a moment when he was on the verge of despair.

The gambler yielded the finer instincts of the man, and Cyril yielded to temptation. He thrust the notes into his own pocket, and he felt a cold, hard, round object.

He unbuttoned the dead man's waistcoat, and readjusted his coat.

"To what station is the man going?" cried Cyril.

The small outside pocket of the man's overcoat he found a return ticket, London and Salisbury. Cyril was also bound for Salisbury, but he had no wish to be found in a carriage where rode a dead traveller.

He looked at the ticket, and he saw that Cyril owned the carriage window and looked out. The fog was dense, and the night pitchy dark.

"Bang! bang!" came two loud reports. Cyril was startled, at a moment when he was thinking something infernal had happened. "Only fog signals!" he cried, after a moment's reflection.

The train slowly crawled into Andover station. It had barely come to a standstill when another train, an up-journey one from Salisbury, arrived; consequently two trains were at the station, ranged alongside each other.

And now a wild and desperate idea entered the head of Claridge. Was it possible to convey this dead traveller into a carriage of the up train?

He looked at the ticket, and he saw that Cyril owned the carriage window and looked out. The fog was dense, and the night pitchy dark.

BOSTON, TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 24, 1891.

POLITICAL POINTERS.

Gen. Palmer Says He's Too Old to Run in 1892.

Had Heard of CLEVELAND.

Simon Stevens Relates an Anecdote to

The case of Langdon against the mayor, having been referred back to ex-President Cleveland as referee to take further testimony as to the value of what property on the North river came up the other day, the venerable Rufus B. Smith, chief counsel for plaintiffs, called Mr. Simon Stevens as a witness to prove that Mr. Stevens had sold to the city in 1884 some 500 feet of wharf property on the North river for an average of \$600 to \$650 per running foot, measured on the bulkhead.

The session lasted nearly two hours, says Mr. Stevens, and after the testimony of Mr. Stevens, and after pleasant conversation with Mr. Stevens, Mr. Stevens called Mr. Stevens as a witness to prove that Mr. Stevens had sold to the city in 1884 some 500 feet of wharf property on the North river for an average of \$600 to \$650 per running foot, measured on the bulkhead.

"I have no objection to being called," said Mr. Stevens, "I will represent the people of Illinois in the Senate for six years, and will be fully satisfied in fulfilling the pledges made by me to the people of Illinois."

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THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

Organized Movement to Spread its Doctrines in the East.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The National Farmers' Alliance, organized by Senator-elect, J. M. McKim, of South Dakota, Representative-elect, Jerry Simpson, of Kansas, and Ralph Beaumont, president of the Citizens' National Alliance, at Concord, N. H., on the evening of March 25; at Augusta, Me., on the evening of March 27, and at Portland, Me., on Saturday evening of March 28.

Senator McKim's address.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—In speaking of the Republican nomination for the presidency, Mr. McKim, president pro tem. of the Senate, says: "The time to think of such important political matters is at hand. It is hardly too late to think of it now, and it will settle which party will run the government for another four years from less than two years hence. I think Mr. Harrison will be elected, but I do not know. I am not a politician, and I do not care to enter into the personality of the coming contest."

"The reward is for some young man, and let me say, if Cleveland could be removed to Chicago, the great metropolis of the political world, he would be a great asset to the date that I can call to mind. He could then be in the great movement at present manifesting itself, and his striking personality and years would render him all the more popular and powerful."

The Northwest is determined to exercise its influence upon the politics of the future. Heretofore the influence of the West has been confined to the strings of New York and Indiana, until the domain of these States has become an unexplored territory. Heretofore, by reason of increasing cohesion and vitality in the party, the Northwest has been a factor in the politics of the Pacific, will control the political destinies of the country. Illinois, too, will be a factor in the politics of the future, and act in harmony with the States embraced in the territory just named.

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WHICH ONE?

Written for The Sunday Globe, BY

ACNES L. PRATT.

"You don't mean it."
"But I do, though."
"Isn't it a rather sudden conclusion?"
"On the contrary, my dear boy, I have been thinking of it for some time."
Fred bent over a low whistle.

"Well, I must say you have kept it mighty private."

"The best policy, if I had told you in the first place you might have persuaded me out of the notion. Now it is impossible."

"But you said you never meant to tell me."

"All blow, my dear fellow. When a man is young, a mere boy, he does well to rail at marriage, and declare he will never wed. When he arrives at his years and gray hairs he will think better of it."

"But Laurie, honest old fellow, were you never in love?"

"Me—never." And Laurence Weston laughed scornfully at the idea as he lighted a fresh cigar.

"Then you are not going to marry for love?" inquired Bent.

"No."

"What for, then?"

"Oh, a variety of things, I suppose," was Weston's answer, as he settled himself more firmly in his crimson chair and looked contemplatively at the ceiling, while the blue wreaths of smoke from his choice cigar made an ethereal halo about his handsome head.

"Money, for one thing, I fancy," he went on.

"No, then I am growing older, my chances to marry well—to my liking—will not always be fair as they are now, and I always intended to marry finally."

"Oh, did you?"

"Yes, though I would never own it, but I am in earnest now, and I mean to marry before this year is out."

"You would select the lady?"

"There are two of them."

"Oh, you are going over to the Mormons."

"No, but you know a reserve force comes handy. If one won't, you know."

"Now, my dear Fred, all this nonsense about falling in love is both—pure humbug. I never could love one woman any better than another, unless I knew her better, and I never could love one woman more than I do."

"I think it is much better to select a woman whom you think in every way likely to suit you, and then set about learning to like her."

"When a man is head over ears in love, his judgment is warped, and his eyesight is so faulty."

"Fred laughed good-naturedly."

"I don't know, Laurie—I am always in love, so, of course, my advice is worthless to you."

"Exactly," said his friend. "Now these two young ladies—"

"Would you object to tell me their names?" inquired Bent.

"Not in the least. They are both called Blanche."

"What the two Blanches?"

"Miss Sturtevant and Miss Wellington—both very suitable in every way, and, as far as I know, 'heart whole and fancy free.'"

"Well, you ought to win," said Bent.

"You are good looking, and, by Jove, you have plenty of assurance. But I must be going," and he arose.

"At the door he turned and called out:

"Shall I see you at the Leona's tomorrow night?"

"I shall be there."

"That's right, good night," and, whistling softly, he passed out of the Merck block, where Laurence Weston had his bachelor quarters.

"After he had done his friend finished his cigar and then, with a smile on his lips, retired to his room."

"Laurence Weston was a handsome man, and he knew it. He was the only one of the kind who never he could."

"He was a great favorite with the weaker hands of the city, and he had been desired to, he might have counted his conquests by the score."

"But he was not. His income barely sufficed for his own luxurious living, and when he married he would have to afford to despise that dross for which men have before now sold their souls."

"Surely I do not have to go to work, to part with that insignificant organ in my anatomy, which he has made his way to the side of Blanche?"

"As she made room for him beside her, she said:

"I thought you didn't like receptions."

"No, but as a general thing, he replied."

"I did not have a peculiar attraction for me."

"The meaning of his words was plain to her. He had been bestowing on her the delicate touches of his fingers, and she was as lovely as his fastidious eyes."

"But suddenly, when he gazed at her pretty, flushed face, a queer sensation seized him. He felt actually timid about his own hands, which he had been caressing so long."

"Heaven he felt for years a man of the world. Somehow he felt as though she had read his very thoughts with those bright eyes."

"No look very badly."

"Her manner, she recalled him to his senses."

"Thank you, my dress is beautiful—and you."

"Thank you," she said hurriedly.

"Fancifully, she thought of your gaze you had not quite decided whether I would or not," and she laughed softly.

"I am in a brown."

"The crowd surged around him, and two or three men, anxious at the seat occupied by Weston."

"Some music was playing in another room, and when the strain had ended, he turned again."

"Miss Sturtevant," he said, "I wanted to ask you a question tonight, but the crowd is so great that there is not much opportunity for confidential conversation."

"You may ask me anything you like, and I will answer you to-morrow, will you favor me with a reply?"

"Certainly," and the brown eyes smiled sweetly, and perhaps unconsciously, at him, as he rose to relinquish his seat to another admirer."

"There that was neatly done," was his mental comment, as he looked at the girl, who, to the ladies, appeared disagreeable, and if the faces are kind, shall have one of the finest looking eyes in the city."

"He thought of her carefully when he closed, replying to a kindly greeting here and there, and presently found himself in the crowd."

"But it was occupied."

"Standing under the tall palm, a radiant vision in blue and gold, stood Blanche Wellington."

"His face brightened as he approached her, for anything beautiful always appealed strongly to the artistic side of his nature, and what was more, she was so tall, queenly woman with a crown of gold, tall, queenly woman with a crown of gold, tall, queenly woman with a crown of gold."

"What an opportunity there was to win for him this love!" he thought, as he looked at her.

"His conversation with Miss Sturtevant, a few moments ago, crossed his mind, but he dismissed it with a wave of his hand."

"He could easily explain to her his request. Thank heaven, he had not committed himself."

"Miss Wellington turned to him with a smile."

"So you are here this evening. Do you remember?"

"I have not—until now."

"What did it matter if that sweet speech of mine had changed my mind concerning the matter I spoke of? It was really of no consequence, and I beg you will not give it any thought. It was only an idle question, which merely amused me, and in fact the cause which existed for my no longer asking. Please treat the matter as a joke, and oblige. Yours, L. Weston."

"There," he said, as he pushed the sheet to one side, "I fancy that disposes of Miss Sturtevant, very easily. She will think it

INDIAN SECRET ARTS.

How Eastern Soothsayers Tell Fortunes with Dice.

Some Strange Experiments—Guessing What a Person Has Thought Of.

Strange Indian Books in Which the Black Art Secrets are Set Forth.

At a recent meeting of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia, Mr. Carlin read a most interesting paper on the "Black Arts of the East," and gave an account of the practice of telling fortunes with dice in India. This is called ramala, and those who adopt it are called ramalis. The science is said to be 6000 years old.

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THE MATINEE WOMAN.

If You Are Rich or Retired from Business, You See Her in Her Glory at the Theatres Afternoons.

The Matinee Woman is the only place where women loiter, lawfully and forever.

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